Virginia Geographic Information Network Advisory Board
November 25, 2002 10:00 am

3rd Floor Conference Room, Department of Information Technology
110 South 7th Street, Richmond, Virginia

Member Present:

Honorable John Watkins, Chairman
Scott Crafton
Charles W. Donato
Rick Pevarski
Jerry Simonoff
Bill Sirine

Designees:

Murali Rao for Philip Shucet
Jean Tingler for Mark Kilduff

Members Absent:

Dan Shaffer, Vice Chairman
Honorable Watkins M. Abbitt, Jr.
Barry Glick
John Jenkins
Ronald Kander, PhD.
J. Jack Kennedy
Honorable Sam A. Nixon, Jr.
Honorable Beverly Sherwood
Honorable Mary Margaret Whipple

VGIN Staff:

William D. Shinar, VGIN Coordinator
Bob Rike, VGIN Assistant Coordinator

Honorable John Watkins called the Virginia Geographic Advisory Board meeting to order at 10:00am.

Approval of September Minutes

The minutes for the last Advisory Board meeting reviewed and approved by the members present.

Coordinator's Report

- **VGIN Staff and Budget**

  VGIN received the full 15% budget cut ($85,000). As a result the SOTECH GIS will be shut down temporarily. Mr. Shinar indicated that the annual cost to VGIN for the application and services in $75,000. Ms Tingler and Mr Rao expressed concern over the loss of this application as it supported efforts for several agencies. Ms Tingler offered staff assistance if it would help. Mr. Shinar indicated that he would review to see if adjustments could be made to keep the SOTECH GIS running.

  3 of the 5 VGIN staff members have left in the past month; Matthew Blaes, Cara Kaufman and Mark McKercher. Due to hiring restrictions and uncertainty over implementation of the IT Strategic Plan, these positions will not be filled before January 2003.

  As a result of the decreased staff, the 2 workgroups [DECI workgroup, chaired by Dan Widner (VDOT) and the Natural Resources Workgroup chaired by Marsha Berman (VIMS) will not meet until after the first of the year. Kathy Prescott, Prince William County, will continue to chair the Procurement Committee, however, that process may be slowed also.

  Mr. Rao inquired whether the existence of VGIN was in jeopardy due to the budget situation. Mr. Shinar indicated that The future plan for VGIN will be based on the Governor's Strategic Plan. Mr. Shinar stated that he has never felt as much support for the division as he feels at this time.

  Senator Watkins indicated that he was invited to the Governor's office a couple of weeks ago to speak to the Governor about VGIN. The Governor asked him if there are areas that need support immediately. If it gets to the point where cuts are "muscle and bone" we need to illustrate where our specific needs are. The Governor is very much in favor and sensitive to VGIN. This feedback needs to be given to the Governor as soon as possible.

- **Virginia Base Mapping Program (VBMP) Status**

  Mr. Shinar presented to the Board an in-depth briefing on the overall VBMP status of the digital orthophotography and hydrography contract with VARGIS.

  Mr. Shinar stated that VGIN is working with the Attorney Generals office to finalize the VBMP product license agreement. Mr. Rike reviewed the VBMP imagery products and demonstrated differences between the GeoTiff, MrSID and 1 Meter Re-Sampled products.

Mr. Shinar briefed the Board on the status of the remainder of the VBMP project elements including: Road Centerlines, Geocoded Addressing, Hydrography and identification of other critical 9-1-1 data. Mr. Shinar stated that long driveways with multiple structures a high priority for the E911 group. He indicated that a solution for this element in the Road Centerline dataset is being worked on.

Mr. Shinar briefed the Board on a cost effective option for producing topographic contours from the project data based on new estimates from VARGIS. While no state funding is available, localities and other agencies could fund data development in their areas of interest. Discussions with FEMA are taking place identify possible funding support.

The Commonwealth of Virginia Strategic Plan for Technology

N. Jerry Simonoff, Director of the Department of Technology Planning presented the Commonwealth of Virginia Strategic Plan for Technology on behalf of Deputy Secretary Eugene Huang.

Mr. Simonoff briefed the Board on the Strategic Plan for Digital Government. He stated that due to the research that has been done on the current budget situation, the following strategic planning efforts are being made for technology:

1. Develop core technologies leading to savings of millions annually across executive branch agencies.
2. Develop a strategic plan for the overhaul of state administrative systems, including efforts to improve financial systems to track IT expenditures.
3. Develop and implement a plan for statewide IT security.
4. Develop and implement a capital planning process for IT and a collaborative business process improvement program.
5. Develop and deploy Web-enabled solutions for government business processes.
6. Overhaul procurement of information technology.

Mr. Simonoff stated that the full "Strategic Plan for Digital Government: Virginia's Approach" is available on the Secretary of Technology website at http://www.techplan.state.va.us.

- **Single Tactical Landscape Proposal**

  This proposal, originally developed with DEM, was put into 2 grants: a $750,000 grant with the department of commerce; and a $250,000 grant. Both of these grants were turned down. Efforts are being made to review this initiative with Lt. Governor Hagar's Chief of Staff, George Foresman for suitability to support Senate Bill 610, which asks VGIN to coordinate a GIS for airborne disease. There

has been no money available. VGIN will probably submit the Single Tactical Landscape Plan as the plan that this legislation would fit into when and if money becomes available to support those efforts.

- **Homeland Security**

  The Governor endorsed recommendation from the Secure Virginia Panel directing VGIN to create a GIS system for cataloging critical infrastructure in the Commonwealth. VGIN has been examining FOIA exemptions and code requirements with JCOTS and the Attorney General's office to facilitate this effort. At issue is the ability of utility companies to maintain proprietary control over their data while supporting homeland security efforts.

- **Virginia Space Grant Consortium**

  VGIN worked with the Virginia Space Grant Consortium and Virginia Tech to win a grant from NASA for an "extension specialist" in remote sensing. Tech will hire a PhD level extension specialist in early spring focused on education and training in remote sensing.

- **Meetings**

  Mr. Shinar reported that VGIN has attended the following meetings since the last board meeting:

  - COVITS
  - APCO
  - Annual State GIS Conference
  - Virginia Municipal League (VML)
  - Virginia Association of Counties (VACO)
  - Homeland Security Summit in Washington, DC
  - Eastern State Cooperator's Group

New Business

None presented

Next Scheduled Board Meeting : January 6, 2003.

Adjournment

The VGIN Advisory Board meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.